

Appl. No. 09/297,774
Docket No. JA-179
Amdt. dated September 13, 2010
Reply to Office Action mailed on May 12, 2010
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 14 and 16-22 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claim 15 is canceled without prejudice.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the features of a disposable absorbent article comprising a containment assembly defining a containment assembly area, the containment assembly comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of side panels joined to the containment assembly and defining side panel areas, each side panel comprising a securement member wherein the backsheet comprises a plastic film and a nonwoven web, the plastic film having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein the plastic film is disposed only in the containment assembly area, wherein the nonwoven web is joined to the outer surface of the plastic film such that the nonwoven web covers the entire outer surface of the plastic film and is disposed on the containment assembly area and the side panel areas.

Dependent claims 16-18 have been amended for clarity.

Support for this amendment is found, *inter alia*, at page 5, lines 13-25 and page 10, lines 26-29 of the specification.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Specification

Applicant appreciates Examiner Reichle thorough review of the present application. Applicant has attempted to correct many minor errors by the present amendment

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Drawings

The drawings have been objected for reasons of record at paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Applicant submits corrected figures 1 and 2. It is Applicant's position that these corrected figures, in combination with the amendment made to the written description overcome the objection to the drawings.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Description

The description has been objected for reasons of record at paragraphs 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicant submits that the specification has been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors and for clarity.

Applicant submits that reference numbers 80.76 and 82.74 have been deleted from figure 2.

The Office Action questions "[w]here is the constant Co?" in reference to the following equation:

$$HV = Co + \sum_{i=1}^{16} \{ C_i \cdot (X_i - X_i') / \sigma_i \}$$

Applicant would like to bring the Office's attention to Table III found at page 21 of the specification. Table III provides different values of C_i as a function of i .

For example, Co for the Hand Value of Koshi is 4.4473. Co for the Hand Value of Fukurami is 4.5531 and Co for the Hand Value of Shari is 4.8480.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are therefore respectfully requested.

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Claim Objections

Applicant submit that claims 2 and 15 have been canceled therefore mooted the objection of these claims.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for reasons of record at paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Applicant submits that claims 1-13 and 15 have been canceled therefore mooted the rejection of these claims.

Applicant also submits that independent claim 14 has been amended. It is Applicant's position that this amendment overcomes the rejection.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) for reasons of record at paragraph 9 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that independent claim 14 has been amended to include the features of a disposable absorbent article comprising a containment assembly defining a containment assembly area, the containment assembly comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of side panels joined to the containment assembly and defining side panel areas, each side panel comprising a securement member wherein the backsheet comprises a plastic film and a nonwoven web, the plastic film having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein the plastic film is disposed only in the containment assembly area, wherein the nonwoven web is joined to the outer surface of the plastic film such that the nonwoven web

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covers the entire outer surface of the plastic film and is disposed on the containment assembly area and the side panel areas. It is Applicant's position that this amendment overcomes the rejection because the references applied in the rejection do not teach or suggest independent claim 14 as a whole.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied reference(s). In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendment(s) presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claim(s) are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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